

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1. (Amended) A plasmid containing a tightly regulated promoter, wherein said promoter is operatively linked to an isolated and purified DNA sequence [comprising a DNA sequence which] that encodes a peptidoglycan-associated lipoprotein (PAL) of gram-negative bacteria, and wherein [said DNA sequence, under the control of said promoter, is expressed in lipidated form] the recombinant PAL, under the control of said promoter, is expressed in lipidated form and in yields that are higher than those expressed by a recombinant PAL that is not under the control of a tightly regulated promoter.

Claim 2. (original) The plasmid of Claim 1 wherein the PAL is the P6 protein of *Haemophilus influenzae* (*H. influenzae*).

Claim 3 (original): The plasmid of Claim 2, wherein the promoter is an arabinose inducible promoter or a T7 promoter.

Claim 4 (original): The plasmid of Claim 3 wherein the promoter is an arabinose inducible promoter.

Claim 5 (original): The plasmid of Claim 4 wherein the plasmid is designated pPX4020.

Claim 6 (original): The plasmid of Claim 3 wherein the promoter is a T7 promoter.

Claim 7 (original): The plasmid of Claim 6 wherein the plasmid is designated pPX4019.

Appl. No. 10/019,164  
Amdt. Dated November 12, 2004  
Reply to Office action of May 13, 2004

Claim 8 (original): A bacterial host cell transformed, transduced or transfected with the plasmid of Claim 1.